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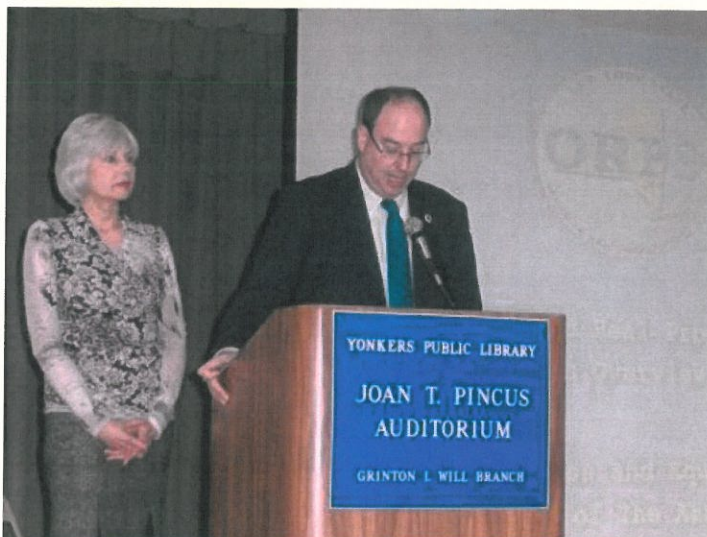
News From Chuck Lesnick Yonkers City Council President

March 1, 2009

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Reval Meeting Monday



Councilwoman Joan Gronowski and I are hosting our second Q&A workshop/public education meeting on reassessment to create fair property taxes from 6 - 8 p.m. on Monday, March 2 at the Riverfront Library, 1 Larkin Plaza, Yonkers.

The first session was a daytime event held at the Will Library on Wednesday, Feb. 18. We actually ran over the two hours in order to address every individual's question. It was a great meeting that was broadcast on channel 78 and will run this weekend.

Our hope is to better understand the concerns of the taxpayers whether reval becomes a consideration in Yonkers or on a county or state level now or in the future.

You may wish to read two editorials in the Journal News regarding the subject by clicking [Feb. 25](#) and by clicking [Feb. 26](#). Or click [here](#) to watch a live editorial board panel discussion this week on the topic not only with me but with other featured

guests New Rochelle Mayor Noam Bramson, Westchester County Legislator Kenneth Jenkins, Town of Mamaroneck Supervisor Valerie O'Keeffe, and Town of Pelham Supervisor Joseph Solimine.

A comprehensive community view piece was also published in the Journal News this morning and is definitely worth a read. (Click [here](#).)

Tomorrow's March 2 workshop will be facilitated by the NYS Office of Real Property Services (ORPS), and the Yonkers Tax Assessor's office.

Please note that you may bring your tax bill to the meeting if you have questions or concerns and Assessor Mark Russell will do his best to accommodate you, as well as look up your property's vitals on the Intranet.

We look forward to hearing from you. Check the city's [website](#) for weather closings.

Upcoming Meetings



Please be advised that an Environmental Policy & Protection Committee Meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, March 3rd, 2009 at 7:45 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 4th Floor, City Hall.

Please be advised that a Real Estate Committee Meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, March 3, 2009 at 6:00 PM in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 4th Floor.

The following items will be on the Agenda:

1. General Ordinance - amending Chapter 43 Article X of the Code of the City of Yonkers also known as "Zoning -Off Street Parking and Loading" in regard to historic districts.
2. Any additional items that may properly come before this Committee.

We ask the Administration to please have Sharon Ebert, the Landmarks Board and any other appropriate Commissioners/Departments Heads/Directors or their representatives attend the meeting so they can address issues relating to their departments.

Please be advised that we have scheduled a Budget Committee Meeting for Tuesday, March 3rd, 2009 at 7:00 P.M. in the City Council Chambers, 4th Floor, City Hall.

The following item(s) will be discussed: 1.Special Ordinance - increase of revenue and appropriations- \$2,000,000 - New York State Homeland Security Grant - for catastrophic planning, training and equipment - Fire Department.

2.Resolution - to allow the Mayor to execute the grant agreement - \$2,000,000 - New York State Homeland Security Grant - for catastrophic planning, training and equipment. (No COY match.)

3.Special Ordinance - increase of revenue and appropriations - \$240,000 - New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Grant - to enable the Parks Department to continue the restoration work in Untermyer Park's Historic Carriage Trail.

4.Resolution - to allow the Mayor to accept the grant - \$240,000 - New York State Office of Parks,

Recreation and Historic Preservation - to continue the restoration work in Untermeyer Park's Historic Carriage Trail. (\$40,000 COY match.)

5.Audit Presentation (CAFR)

6.Misc. -to consider any other item(s) that may properly come before the Committee. We would ask the Administration to please have the appropriate Commissioners/Departments Heads/Directors or their representatives attend so they can address issues relating to their departments.

Housing Seminars

Come to a free seminar and expo at the Westchester County Center in White Plains on Saturday, March 7 from 10:00 am - 3:00 pm to learn more about the housing market.

Lenders will be on hand to describe the types of loans available.

REALTORS® will offer their most affordable listings.

Not-for-profit counselors will guide you to home ownership and preservation.

Seminars will explain the home buying process.



Seminars for the Homebuyer: 10:30 am - 12:00 pm and 1:00 - 2:30 pm. Topics include:

How much do I need for a down payment?

How much can I spend on a house?

Importance of credit and the credit score.

Role of the not-for-profit counselor, realtor, inspector, attorney, lender.

Downpayment and closing costs assistance.

Is this a good time to buy a home?

Seminars for the Financially Stressed Homeowner, 1:15 pm - 2:30 pm. Topics include:

How to evaluate your housing situation.

Steps and pathways to a resolution.

Understanding the foreclosure process - from mortgage.

Delinquency to sale of a home.

Options - Loan modifications, forbearance agreements, sales, short sales.

Rescue Loan Products... when do they work?

Role of the not-for-profit counselor.

For more information contact: Westchester Residential Opportunities, Inc. (914) 428-4507 x303
OR email them at expo@wroinc.org.

Rain, Snow or Shine



Yonkers annual St. Patrick's Day Parade will be held rain, snow or shine held this year at 1:30 p.m.

on Sunday, March 8 starting on S. Broadway and Radford Street and ending at Hudson Street. Also note that the City Council's annual Irish day celebration will be held at City Hall in the 4th floor conference room at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 10.

Cut it Out

My office, along with the city's Office of Community Services, is offering a free domestic violence training program to all Yonkers beauty salons.

The program, Cut It Out, has been a big success in New York City and is designed to help stylists identify and assist their clients with domestic violence issues by learning what to do if they notice any indications of possible abuse such as bruising or missing hair. The training also teaches stylists what resources are available such as counseling, shelters, and legal services.

Click [here](#) to read recent New York Times coverage.

The course will be conducted by My Sister's Place from 1-4 p.m. on Monday, March 16 at the Riverfront Library.

If you would like to attend, please contact Carol Bengis, my constituent affairs liaison, at (914) 377-6065 or email her at carol.bengis@yonkersny.gov.

We hope you will join us for this worthwhile training program. It may one day save a life.



Discover Beautiful Yonkers



The Blue Door Artist Association in collaboration with the Yonkers Board of Education will be displaying photographs taken by children of all ages in the Atrium of the Yonkers Riverfront Library from March 2 to March 28, 2009.

Photographs are images of the city - its places, parks, waterfront and its people.

A panel of professional photographers has selected a number of winners of prizes that will be awarded at a special reception there on March 5 at 3 p.m. at which I will be speaking as a known advocate of music and arts in our schools.

Art Exhibit in Yonkers

The Historic Maritime Museum of Vlissingen, Netherland, and the Salmagundi Club of New York, has invited us to be part of a reciprocal celebration of events between the cities of Amsterdam and New York.

It is with great gratitude and thanks to the Director of the historic Maritime Museum in Vlissingen, Dr. Wilbert Weber and Leendert van der Pool, guest curator and honored Dutch artist as well as resident artist of the Salmagundi Club, that this exhibition was made possible. The paintings are works by the members of the Salmagundi Club.

The exhibition, History Panorama, will consist of twenty-five oil paintings on 6 x 3 feet panels, depicting 400 years of New York's History, hinged together to form a free-standing structure.

Come see the exhibition at the Hudson River Gallery & Conservators from February 21 - March 14, 2009.

Opening Times: Wednesday - Saturday, 10am - 6pm Contact: Helmut and Barbara Zitzwitz, (914) 964-0401 or email him at zitzwitz@mac.com. www.hudsonrivergallery_conservators.com



Your Support is Needed



The Yonkers Historical Society is undertaking a membership drive to recruit new people to join their mission of providing a meaningful link between our historic past and our future.

Some of their good works include:

- Saving [Philipse Manor Hall](#) from abandonment.
- Working with Blue Door Art Gallery to create the traveling photography exhibit "Yonkers Then and Now" which contrasts the

Yonkers of the late 19th and early 20th century with current images.

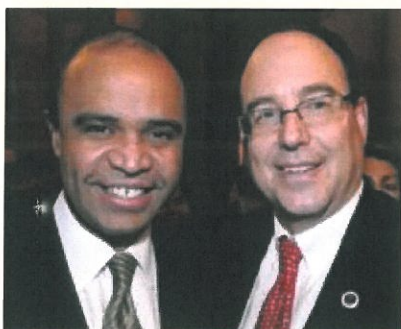
- Publishing a quarterly journal, "The Yonkers Historian."
- Providing outstanding lectures on interesting history topics.
- Expanding education plans for Yonkers' schools.
- Maintaining a [website](#) with free historical information available to all.

- Holding Archives Day twice a year.
- Publishing such books as "Yonkers Then and Now" and Eddie Dee's latest effort, "Saturday Afternoon at the Itch."
- Working to publish "The History of Yonkers in the Twentieth Century."
- Assisting members and community groups with requests for historic information.
- Offering free public tours of Sherwood House, the second oldest home in Yonkers, as well as maintaining and retoring it. (As an aside, volunteers from the Cornell Master Gardeners' program are working to restore Doctor Ingersoll's herb garden. A grand reopening is expected this spring.)

While no one needs to be reminded of the financial constraints we all face, keeping Yonkers history alive is so important. Our history makes us who we are. Please consider joining this group or donating to their cause.

For more information, contact Yonkers Historical Society, Grinton I. Will Library, 1500 Central Park Avenue Yonkers, NY 10710. (914) 961-8940.

Congrats!



Congratulations to our friend Adolfo Carrion who was recently named White House Director of Urban Affairs.

Adolfo knows a thing or two about city life. In addition to serving two terms as New York City's Bronx Borough President, he has experience as a minister and public school teacher there and, like me, has a degree in urban planning. We have worked on projects together in both the Bronx and Yonkers over the years.

Here we had the chance to speak about my goals for Yonkers at the Governor's recent State of the State in Albany and then again at Adolfo's farewell State of the Borough address at Lehman College.

Best regards to Adolfo as we wish him great success in his new position.

Edited by Laura Fahrenthold

email: chuck.lesnick@yonkersny.gov

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